For My Name's Sake

Ever since Hermes, grandson of Noah, started celebrating people and animals and his cousin, Nimrod, turned it into worship, nearly five thousand years ago; there have been different religions.

The original beauty and beast, Nimrod and Semiramis of Babylon, were the foundation of all idolatry that followed in the known world. He was very tall, very dark and not good looking. She was stunningly beautiful and renowned as the most filthy of women in those days. He was renowned for his strength and ability to kill leopards with his hands. Towering above everyone wearing leopard skins, Nimrod became king of Babylon.

His names were different from one nation to another through the Ages until this day. His reputation became his identity as the baby killer, and eater. She was famous for

her orgies and appetites.

Alexander Hislop, Church of Scotland 1807-1865, *The Two Babylons,* writes,

> *As the Father of the gods, he (Nimrod) was, as we have seen, called Kronos; and every one knows that the classical story of Kronos was just this, that, 'he devoured his sons as soon as they were born."Such is the analogy between type and antitype. This legend has a further and deeper meaning;but, as applied to Nimrod, or "The Horned One," it just refers to the fact, that, as the representative of Moloch or Baal, infants were the most acceptable offerings at his altar. We have ample and melancholy evidence on this subject from the records of antiquity. "The Phenicians," says Eusebius, "every year sacrificed their beloved and only-begotten children to Kronos or Saturn, and the Rhodians also often did the same." Diodorus Siculus states that the Carthaginians, on one occasion, when besieged by the Sicilians, and sore pressed, in order to rectify, as they supposed, their error in having somewhat departed from the ancient custom of Carthage, in this respect, hastily "chose out two hundred of the noblest of their children, and publicly sacrificed them" to this god. There is reason to believe that the same practice obtained in our own land in the times of the Druids. We know that they offered human sacrifices to their bloody gods.*

These and more forbidden behaviors are the basis for all the pagan religions. It appears the ancient designers knew what would be forbidden by God.

Yet, far less than eating your children is considered evil by The King of the universe. Lack of knowledge or

action is enough to be left out when Judgment comes.

Much later, in Israel, Pharisees and Sadducees both claimed to be Jews. Pharisees cited Moses and the law as their authority. Sadducees claimed traditions and privileges that obtained under Zadok, the High Priest during Soloman's days.

The Lord didn't have much to say to the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection or the Spirit. He was very critical of the scribes and Pharisees.

The Lord called the Gentiles dogs, by Jewish tradition. The word includes everyone who is not a Jew. Later He told Peter to not separate himself from them if they are those He has made clean. There are many more varieties of Gentiles now than in those days. Fortunately, no religion at all is required to be saved, according to Psalms;

> *Psa 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.*

But the question arises, What is the right way to worship The Lord?

Clearly, The Lord said, 'in spirit and in Truth', But that happens in the heart. What is the best way to do things on the outside, in church and in community?

There are so many choices it boggles the mind. What do we use as a standard? Many follow tradition. If it was good enough for my parents it's good enough for me.

Really? Does that really focus on the idea of getting closer to God, or closer to family and friends?

Many choose what is most convenient. But, doesn't that serve the flesh rather than the spirit?

There are thousands of Christian denominations with different agendas nowadays. Most use the Bible in some fashion and most think they are the only one doing it right.

There will always be a few in any culture who overcome this world and make the cut. Yet, the vast majority are not really sincere. They are just there for appearance or conscience sake or some other reason not even related to the kingdom. Many hover around looking for money, companionship or self esteem. Some even come for the air conditioning or the food. This is not written for those people.

The best and only safe way to conduct church and worship The Lord is to simply follow His instructions.
The Bible is full of information regarding all of that. Among the most obvious is;

> *Jer 12:16 And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people.*
> *Jer 12:17 But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.*

We should realize The Lord knows what works best and designed us with all this in mind. He gave those ways to king David and Moses who wrote them down for His people.

The best way to describe the feeling of following God's Commandments correctly is peacefulness and

invulnerability. It's like the difference between sitting in a toy bus and riding in a real one. It really works. The toy may be fun, but it won't get us anywhere.

Truth is, The Lord did not change the rules very much in this Age. It was those religious leaders who clouded everything two thousand years ago. They were trying to keep their positions and wealth. The Lord called them the synagogue of Satan. They traveled around confusing people saying everyone had to follow the customs in order to be saved, when that was never true. Then they killed The Lord.

The Lord did give us some obvious clues like; His people are called Jews, they don't answer to clergy and they don't pay tribute to the Kingdom.

> *Joh 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*
>
> *Mat_20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. Mat 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; Mat 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

In other words, no clergy.

> *Mat 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?*

Mat 17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

In other words, no tribute to His Kingdom. Alms deeds are something else altogether.

He also said the same rules apply now as before.

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Mainly, The Lord focused on how to think about life and The Creator. He taught about how to treat other people and how to behave with things. It appears, to Him, church is always in session. We are always being watched and judged.

His words are more than good advice, they are Commandments to the faithful of heart.

The best way we can understand how to worship Him is by looking at what He taught His disciples and what He said when He went back to Heaven.

In The Revelation, The Most High is revealing things to His Son, our Lord. The angel of The Lord is sharing it with John;

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Here The Most High is shining a light on those who pretend to be Jews but are really not. Then He does something similar with the church at Philadelphia.

> *Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*
>
> *Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*
>
> *Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

(...and hast not denied my name.)

The Lord is recognizing the church in Smyrna and Philadelphia for calling themselves Jews, therefore, not denying His Name.

Using His name is important to Him. This is the second time He points that out in The Revelation.

In the Old testament He mentions it many times as, 'for my names sake', and 'people who are called by My Name'.

> *Isa_48:9 <u>For my name's sake</u> will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.*

2Ch_7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Eze_20:9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Notice He tells His disciples the same thing in the New Testament so, they are still called by His name.

When the Pharisees said,

Joh 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Joh 8:5 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

He was telling them He is the same God now as then, which means His Name is the same.

Matthew_10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Mat_24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Luk_21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's

sake.

Joh_15:21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

For my Name's sake means called by His Name. He is telling us there is no new religion, just a new bride.

Going back to the mountain, we find where the idea of being called by His name started. It was a marriage arrangement where Israel agreed to keep His Commandments and become His Bride. Later, Jeremiah records The Lord saying,

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

The Lord's Name

Original Hebrew had no vowels and somehow, the pronunciation got changed to, יהוה, Jehovah. However, using these vowels it should be translated, יְהוּה , Yehu, which matches the word for Jews in the Hebrew language, Yehudim. While the word - Yehudim, יְהוּדִים means Jews, the dim, דִים, means 'those of', therefore - 'those of God'.

In The Revelation, The Lord is scolding people who are claiming to be Jews but are not, as 'the synagogue of Satan'.

If being Jewish had anything to do with bloodline or birth, that would not make sense. One would either have the right kind of blood or not. As Paul explained, it has to be a matter of faith, not birth that makes someone a Jew.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Before The Lord died the people who went around trying to kill Him and His disciples were still called Jews. After He died, they were no longer married to Him and were not supposed to use His name any longer. Hence came the condition, 'those who say they are Jews but are not.', because they rejected Him. This was fulfilling a promise The Lord made not long before that;

Mat_21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

When He died, the kingdom was taken from the old Jews who did not believe and given to the new Jews who did. As long as He was alive, they were still Jews because of the marriage, which explains why they were referred to as 'the Jews', instead of 'the imposters' or 'the enemies'.

When it was written,

Joh_5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
Joh_6:4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.
Joh_7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

John was referring to all God's people as Jews, which is why The Lord was present according to the law. If that

were an event concerning a different group, The Lord would not have attended.

In the ancient world one nation knew all this and that His Name should not be taken lightly.

> *Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain."*

and later...

> *Proverbs 30:9 "Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."*

The first verse means we should not take on His Name if we don't intend to follow His rules. The second verse describes a man who did that by breaking the Commandment and so, taking The Name in vain.

Of course, that happened as an example for us and we now have grace, so it's no longer in vain unless we never intended to keep His rules anyway.

This is the only way the Bible can be fair and make sense.

In the following text, The Lord is describing conditions in the last days.

> *Zech 8:23, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."*

At Pentecost we see the new wedding and Jews from every nation, not just Hebrews; the New Jews.

> *Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*
> *Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*
> *Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*
> *Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
>
> *Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.*

It's difficult to get this into our heads with the world wide distraction of those people saying they are Jews but really are not. Today they are more of a political faction than a religion. I have yet to speak with one of those rabbis who knows the Bible. None of them understand it, or they would accept The Lord.

Getting With The Program,

The Feasts

On the fesitive side, there is a wonderful level of understanding that occurs when we physically take part in the plan of God, like participating in a festival. Some scripture cannot be understood from without, it can only be understood from within.

When they were of one accord and wanted to do the

will of God, the Jews considered everything they were instructed by God as a Commandment, not just the ten given at Mount Sinai. Some of these had nothing to do with the statutes for redemption but were designed as holy convocations, a perpetual covenant, a memorial or a remembrance; like the Sabbath and the feasts of the Lord. Some were social Commandments that would help us stay on the right path and we need those social guidelines today.

The earth will not swallow us immediately if we choose to ignore God's ways and focus on bad things. But, we can only follow His Commandments in spirit if we understand the ways of the people He trained, as scripture clearly says we must. Even after Yeshua arose and sat down in heaven, Paul and the disciples still attended the festivals and supported the keeping of the ordinances of God according to God given Jewish tradition.

> *Act 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.*

The festivals are a blessed gift to God's people. They outline His plan for the world and identify His people as separate from the Gentiles. The times and seasons described in Genesis are fixed on the heavens where God framed the festival times. The sun marks the day, the moon marks the month, and the stars always mark the sign of His coming.

> *Gen 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*
> *Exo 12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a*

memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. -- (not just till New Testament times).

The Hebrew word for seasons here in Genesis, מוֹעֲדִים, mow-ah-dim, literally means appointed times or festivals. These times and seasons are festivals that are a foreshadowing and rehearsal of God's plan. Some of them foreshadowed the coming of Yeshua and some are for things still to come. They are clearly a separate issue from salvation and a major part of The Lord's ways.

Shavuot commemorates the giving of the law to the world at Mount Sinai, which is what they were observing at Pentecost. At mount Sinai, the word went out to all the people in the world and settled on those at the mountain in a visible form asking each person if they accepted it, say the rabbis.

It is also the ketuba or marriage contract between God and His people, and the event was the first half of the Jewish marriage ceremony called kiddushin or betrothal. The second half is called the nissuin, or consummation, traditionally a year later when the groom took his bride to the heddar or bride chamber in his father's house.

Many years later when God ended His espousal with the Hebrews it was necessary to have another betrothal, hence, Pentecost. The second half of God's wedding, the Consummation, will be when He returns and takes His bride to His Father's house in Heaven. As He pointed out, we will not see Him until then and we say 'blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord' and the nissuin begins.

It has always been the custom in Jewish weddings when the groom enters the room, everyone stands and says "blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." It is part of the ways of His people given by God, and in the

blessedness of pure honesty, followed by Him. What He was saying is 'you will not see me until the wedding begins'.

Another example of this ancient plan is when Yeshua was standing in the courtyard of the women in the Temple during the feast of Sukkot and there were sixteen great lights burning at night, (during that event the Temple was called The Light of The World) then He stood up and said, "I am the light of the world."

> *Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

The fashion of those lights and that event was to foreshadow who He is that all might understand Him better. It is also when they rehearsed those familiar statements every year that we associate with His birth;

> *Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Luk 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

So, it should be no surprise the Lord was born during that feast time and no surprise the angels would speak those words to a young couple having a baby in a barn outside Bethlehem.

Briefly, the Passover sacrifice process was followed explicitly in the crucifixion of Yeshua including the place of His birth, the time of day, the preparation, the inspection, and it was called the Crown Sacrifice.

The New Years Day or Judgment Day called, Rosh

Hashanah, is a picture of the last days including the tribulation with the Day of Atonement 10 days later representing the final end of the world and commemorating the Atonement in the First Age.

There is a place for the whole family in the festivals of God leaving no room for fables, fairy tales and homemade holy days. The things given to Jews are to help understand God's plan and keep our feet on the right path. When we understand these things the Bible resembles a symphony written across time with unlimited scope and filled with meaning that we should be doing.

Another festive covenant between God and His people is the Sabbath. There are wonderful blessings associated with keeping this covenant that we may be missing.

> *Isa 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:*
> *Isa 58:14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

We should understand The Lord keeps His promises. This is a wonderful promise and It's not an optional holy day. Before grace came people were killed for not keeping it. The Sabbath has nothing to do with forgiveness of sins and redemption. Separate from all of that and very briefly, it foreshadows the millennium when we will join God in His rest, as He rested after creation.

The Bible is written like a family history because the Kingdom is a family affair. What is more, God is somebody. He has feelings like us and can become angry and joyful.

An analogy to His commanded festivals would be our birthday parties. Is it really necessary to have a birthday party if we have the birthday spirit in our hearts? Next time your child has a birthday tell them that you don't believe in a lot of ritual business and you're going to stop having parties with friends and cake and presents. Tell them you have freed yourself from that tradition and observance on the outside and will now be observing the birthday spirit in your own way, in your heart. See how they respond.

Jewish things are as things will be in eternity. How can we not be interested in that? We will celebrate the Sabbaths, the New Moons and all the original festivals as they were defined, "a statute forever".

Only by understanding the Jewish Kingdom can we understand the future. For example, the coming Judgment Day is going to be a day of harvest, punishment and restoration. It is the Last Trump. On this day, the Bride of Yeshua, known as the Zadakim or Saints - living and dead, from the Book of Life, will be taken to His heddar in Heaven. Then we will understand everything.

A Note On How Not To Worship

When Israel crossed the Jordan, The Lord gave them a warning about the inhabitants of the new land. He straightly forbade them to worship Him the same way those people worshiped their gods.

> *Deu 12:30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire*

not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.
Deu 12:31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

Many of the conditions in those times are the same in our days. Concerning holidays, Paul writes,

1Co 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 1Co 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

What Paul means about sacrifice to devils was the very popular mystery cults of the day. Every city in the roman empire was deeply involved in idol worship. Paul realized the idols represented devils from the distant past, sometimes even possessing people around him. The rituals performed often included cannibalism, blood drinking and orgies; all, of course, forbidden by God.

It's amazing these are still present in our culture. Most all our holidays are directly traceable to these mystery cults. Even the days of the week in America come from these forbidden idols. The Greek fraternities and sororities in American colleges are ignorantly practicing these ancient religions. They take oaths to the same gods, engage in orgies and other things dedicated to those ancient cults.

Nearly all our holidays come directly from ancient pagan festivals; Christmas incorporates practices from the

Saturnalia, where a tree is cut and put inside the house decorated with red berries. Easter incorporates practices from Babylon and Ishtar that contain eggs as a symbol of life. Halloween is a day dedicated to evil once called all-hallows eve. All these things are forbidden by God.

> *Jer 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*
> *Jer 10:3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*
> *Jer 10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*

If we expect to survive the Judgment Day, we need to change our priorities and agendas now.

On the other side, the days of the week in Israel amount to; day one, day two, day three etc.., as given in Genesis.

The Colossians

Colossian scriptures have been used to condemn the Jews and their customs. Paul never said any such thing. Here is some understanding from the worldwide church of God. They explain it was gnostic heretics (a sect of those fake Jews The Lord was talking about) that were trying to mislead the new believers.

> What type of deceitful regulations did Paul combat? "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle ... according to the commandments and doctrines of men" (Colossians 2:21-22). The heretics advocated man-made regulations concerning

physical things that "perish with the using" (verse 22). Why is this important? The deceivers were probably forerunners of a major religious movement, gnosticism, that flourished in the second century. They did not represent the mainstream Jewish thinking of that day, nor were they faithful to the Scriptures. They believed salvation could be obtained through constant contemplation of what is "spiritual"—to, as Paul explained, the "neglect" of the physical body (Col 2:23). It appears they believed in various orders of angels and in direct human interaction with angels.

Paul indicates they regarded all physical things, including the human body, as decadent. He explicitly states that the heresies he was countering "concern things which perish with the using [physical things] according to the commandments and doctrines of men" (Col 2:22).

Paul tells us he was countering human commandments and doctrines—not the commandments of God. The Colossian heretics had introduced various man-made prohibitions—such as "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle" (Col 2:21)—against the enjoyment of physical things. They especially objected to the pleasurable aspects of God's festivals—the eating and drinking aspects—that are commanded in the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 12:17-18).

When Paul wrote, "... Let no one judge you in food . . ." (Col 2:16), he wasn't discussing what types of foods they should or should not eat. The Greek word brosis, translated "food," refers not to the kinds of foods one should or should not eat, but to "the act of eating" (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1985, "Food").

The point is that the deceivers disdained

feasting—any type of eating and drinking for enjoyment.

The Galatians

Many people have been told the book of Galatians is arguing against Judaism and the ways of the Lord. The Galatians were worshiping idols of the mystery cults, descended from Babylon. According to the *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, an article by Joshua J. Mark reads;

> "That Galatian law was derived from the gods is suggested by the proximity of the sacred city of Pessinus, dedicated to the Mother Goddess Cybele and her consort Attis, close on the border of the western part of Galatia controlled by the Tolistogogii, (one of the Galatian founding tribes)."

The Galatians were fighters. When they were not fighting against another nation they were fighting for another one as mercenaries. It is not surprising they would choose a cult like Cybele, which was known for wild orgies and blood guzzling. Galatians were pretty rough cut folk, so it would be quite a task to turn their entire culture into a Jewish one.

After Paul had been there teaching them, a fake Jewish scholar went and discouraged them by saying it is necessary to keep the Jewish customs in order to be saved. When in fact, those customs never had anything to do with salvation.

Justification and salvation happened at the temple on the altar, which is what the Lord replaced. Paul said,

> *"Gal 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*

Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Gal 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

Gal 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

He means they should not be returning to their former cult activities and he is afraid he is wasting his time working with them.

Then he explains it is not the works of the law that saves people, but faith in The Lord. Otherwise, it would have been a waste for the Lord to die.

While on the other side of that idea, The Lord, who we depend on to save us from the letter of the law said;

Mat_19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Paul was by no means against the law. He was against the idea that people are saved by keeping the law. The lord still expects us to keep the Commandments both new and old.

Mat_5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

The Greek word used for 'destroy', kataluō, only

means destroy when associated with a physical object. (of institutions, forms of government, laws, etc., to deprive of force, annul, abrogate, discardis) - Thayers Greek Lexicon.

In other words, He did not come to deprive the law of force, but to demonstrate how to keep it.

There was one person in each Age of the world who was able to keep the law well enough to not die. Enoch in the First Age, Elijah in the Second Age and Yeshua in the Third.

If that were not so it could be argued the law is impossible and therefore not fair. But since one person in each Age has done it, it is fair.

We are as responsible for the spirit of the law today as if we were standing at the foot of the mountain. So, we will either keep the Lord's Commandments to the degree that we love Him or we will impose on His patience till the Judgment Day.

The Lord said,

> *Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*
>
> *Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least Commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*
>
> *Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case*

enter into the kingdom of heaven.

That's pretty clear.

The reason it matters what we call ourselves is that it determines our position and the rules we will lean toward in the decisions of life. If we think we are gentiles we will probably behave like gentiles. If we think we are children of God and are about to enter an eternal kingdom of wonder and delight, we are more likely to keep the Commandments.

That is not to say we will drop dead immediately if we sin. The psalmist wrote about the children of The Lord's Firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth;

> *Psa 89:30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;*
> *Psa 89:31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my Commandments;*
> *Psa 89:32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.*
> *Psa 89:33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.*
> *Psa 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.*

If we are in Christ and keep His Commandments, we are the 'children of The Lord's Firstborn', His new Bride, and the New Jews.

In addition, now it even appears how everyone who is saved can be included in one of the twelve tribes of Israel. When Israel gave his blessing to the twelve tribes in Egypt, he included character types exclusive to each. At the time and in the context it seemed to have little

significance, but in the context of bringing the Gentiles into the fold today, it identifies a spirit and destiny that can be ascribed to anyone as distinctive as a name. What is more, this blessing is directed to a time he calls, "the last days."

> *Gen 49:1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.*
>
> *Gen 49:2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.*
>
> *Gen 49:3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:*
>
> *Gen 49:4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*
>
> *Gen 49:5 Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.*
>
> *Gen 49:6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self will they digged down a wall.*
>
> *Gen 49:7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.*
>
> *Gen 49:8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.*
>
> *Gen 49:9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?*
>
> *Gen 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from*

Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Gen 49:11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

Gen 49:12 His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

One again, it's all about a people called Jews. But the idea of Jews is not very popular In the church business of America. If you want people to attend, you must preach grace, not Commandments; rapture, not tribulation, and victory, not struggle.

The trap of that is, not many people will do well in a race they think they have already won.

Another problem is, it's hard to believe writings from some other religion. The whole Bible was written by Jews. As a Christian, it feels like you're spying on someone else.

Not until we understand we are the people called by His name, spread over the centuries, can we stop feeling that we're reading other people's mail.

When people realize this they must make a choice. Either believe the Bible and keep the Commandments or try to create their own reality according to their own rules. Many groups throughout time have tried that. We are surrounded by examples in the past and present, people making their own rules.

Only when we surrender to His Commandments can we feel the confidence of being part of God's people. It's not what seems right to us that matters, it's what God thinks. He made a few rules at the mountain based on what would happen in future generations and future Ages.

We must trust the mechanism He put in place for the future. He made rules in the First Age that were broken by some angels who corrupted the whole earth and blood began to flow. They taught man how to do things that would destroy the world, and it did.

Some of the traditions God made for us may seem silly. What must He think of the tradition of a fat man in a red suit flying behind a few caribou bringing gifts to everybody once a year like a god.

In contrast, wearing strings to remind us of the principles that keep our world from unraveling seems fairly reasonable.

The Lord created us able to drift away with our imagination for other things unless we actively pursue Him. He also made symbols, holidays and traditions for living as reminders to keep us from drifting away.

Seeing ourselves with a real place in the Bible changes the way we look at everything. It all makes sense from the inside.

The Church is so corrupted now many people will not remain interested in the Truth. They will either progress into the real Bride of Christ or fall away with the Gentiles. One cannot stay on the fence forever. At some point people must decide whether they believe the Bible or not.

Christians my be similar to a group called Nicolaitans. In Revelation, the Lord said,

> *" Rev 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."*

It's not clear nowadays who were those Nicolaitans.

But, we may safely assume they were people who claimed The Lord's name, but not His ways. Otherwise, He would have hated more than their deeds. Ralph Woodrow writes;

> *Even before the New Testament was completed, it was needful to give warnings about the doctrine of the Nicolaitines (Rev. 2:6). According to Scofield, the word "Nicolaitines" comes from nikao, "to conquer", and laos, "laity", which, if correct, "refers to the earliest form of the notion of a priestly order, or 'clergy', which later divided an equal brotherhood (Mt. 23:8), into 'priests' and 'laity'." The word "priest" in a very real sense belongs to every Christian believer not just ecclesiastical leaders. Peter instructed ministers not to be "lords over God's heritage" (1 Peter 5:1-3). The word translated "heritage" is kleeron and means "clergy". As The Matthew Henry Commentary explains, all the children of God are given the "title of God's heritage or clergy ...the word is never restrained in the New Testament to the ministers of religion only."* *Babylon Mystery Religion*

Christianity has many, many wonderful people, but in America it too often becomes worship-tainment, guilt management or a money game.

People Of The Spirit

It has always been about the spirit from the beginning. The Jews were given the law at the mountain and were God's people in the world. Even then, they allowed converts by the spirit into their group. The earth also swallowed some of those Jews who did not walk after

the spirit.

Nowadays, there is no longer any difference between race, sex or national origin. All who walk after the spirit are Jews and the Bride of Christ. So, God is not double dating between nations or peoples.

A Mistaken History

The general idea in America is that Christians were the victims in the medieval inquisition. That was not the case. It was not the evil Catholics against the innocent Christians. Both Catholics and Protestants are Christian.

The word 'Protestant' is derived from “protesting Catholics.” But, protesting is not the same as leaving. The Pope is still the head of the Christian church. There is a reason he stood up on television and called on all Christians throughout the world a short time ago.

Christians were not the victims of the inquisition, they were the perpetrators of it. When the reputation of those 'monsters' in the pope's seat became common knowledge, people most likely shunned the church. The Church's response was the inquisition to get the people back from their “religious dissent.”

> *The Inquisition, in historical ecclesiastical terminology also referred to as the "Holy Inquisition", was a group of institutions within the Catholic Church whose aim was to combat heresy. Torture and violence were used by the Inquisition for eliciting confessions from heretics.[1] The Inquisition started in 12th-century France to combat religious dissent, particularly among the Cathars and the Waldensians. The inquisitorial courts from this time until the mid-15th century are together known as the Medieval Inquisition. Other*

groups investigated during the Medieval Inquisition, which primarily took place in France and Italy, including the Spiritual Franciscans, the Hussites (followers of Jan Hus), and the Beguines. Beginning in the 1250s, inquisitors were generally chosen from members of the Dominican Order, replacing the earlier practice of using local clergy as judges.[2]

During the Late Middle Ages and the early Renaissance, the scope of the Inquisition grew significantly in response to the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. It expanded to other European countries,[3] resulting in the Spanish Inquisition and the Portuguese Inquisition. The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions focused particularly on the anusim (people who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will) and on Muslim converts to Catholicism.

Portugal and Spain in the late Middle Ages consisted largely of multicultural territories of Muslim and Jewish influence, reconquered from Islamic control, and the new Christian authorities could not assume that all their subjects would suddenly become and remain orthodox Roman Catholics. So the Inquisition in Iberia, in the lands of the Reconquista counties and kingdoms like León, Castile, and Aragon, had a special socio-political basis as well as more fundamental religious motives.

In some parts of Spain towards the end of the 14th century, there was a wave of violent anti-Judaism, encouraged by the preaching of Ferrand Martinez, Archdeacon of Écija. In the pogroms of June 1391 in Seville, hundreds of Jews were killed, and the synagogue was completely destroyed. The

number of people killed was also high in other cities, such as Córdoba, Valencia, and Barcelona. [4]

It never stopped, they just changed the name.

In Italy, after the restoration of the Pope as the ruler of the Papal States in 1814, the activity of the Papal States Inquisition continued on until the mid-19th century, notably in the well-publicised Mortara affair (1858–1870). In 1908 the name of the Congregation became "The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office", which in 1965 further changed to "Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith", as retained to the present day.

Something similar happened several years later in Salem, Massachusetts.

The Salem witch trials were an extension of the inquisition, same agenda, same procedures, same tortures, same problem; crooked people in high places.

The Salem witch trials were a series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693. More than two hundred people were accused. Thirty were found guilty, nineteen of whom were executed by hanging (fourteen women and five men). One other man, Giles Corey, was pressed to death for refusing to plead, and at least five people died in jail.[5]

The only real difference between the world wide

inquisition and the local event in Salem is the scope. The same reason drove both events, power and profit. Few people in either travesty really believed the devil was a player. The massive enterprise was done for wealth, property and dominion.

The local event was fueled by petty grievances, jealousy and greed, among an already bickering society.

> *Salem Village (present-day Danvers, Massachusetts) was known for its fractious population, who had many internal disputes, and for disputes between the village and Salem Town (present-day Salem). Arguments about property lines, grazing rights, and church privileges were rife, and neighbors considered the population as "quarrelsome." In 1672, the villagers had voted to hire a minister of their own, apart from Salem Town. The first two ministers, James Bayley (1673–79) and George Burroughs (1680–83), stayed only a few years each, departing after the congregation failed to pay their full rate. (Burroughs was subsequently arrested at the height of the witchcraft hysteria and was hanged as a witch in August 1692.)*

A ' *minister of their own'* is the first clue to the real problem. A Society of their own is the final clue.

> *Puritans and other religious minorities had sought refuge in the Netherlands but ultimately many made a major migration to colonial North America to establish their own society.[6]*

The Salem society, created expressly as a custom design of their own, sounds a lot like the property line,

grazing rights and church privilege issues that ensued.

Obviously, ownership was the coveted goal and center of most of their problems. It may have been a manifestation in the flesh of problems in the soul.

As long as people are willing to hurt others for profit and pleasure, these things will continue.

The Christian Church

The Christian church began in Rome. *The fathers of the Christian church* were Romans. The Bible was just one of the tools they used.

Today, there are at least 30,000 different denominations of Christian churches in the world. They all worship the way they want. Most think they are the only one doing it right.

While rebuking religious leaders of the day, The Lord said. Mat 15:9,

> *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

He said that because they made a new rule that worked against the Commandment about honoring father and mother.

> *Mat 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.*
>
> *Mat 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;*
>
> *Mat 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother,*

he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

'It is a gift' refers to a new rule they made about offerings. If they got some money and instead of giving it to their parents, young people could give it to the priests for an offering, so they could exercise control of it.

The Lord elaborates that the change of intent in the Commandment of God is forbidden to the extent it makes their worship vain.

Ananias and Sapphira were under grace when they told a little lie about a gift to the church, they were killed.

Nadab and Abihu were killed for offering 'strange fire' before The Lord, the same Lord.

Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Lev 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

What do we suppose He will think of a Church that freely changes so many of His Commandments? What is the destiny of those who embrace forbidden things and incorporate mystery religion practices. What will happen to a Church that actually requires breaking His Commandments?

I think people don't understand.

Readings include Ralph Woodrow's, *Babylon Mystery Religion*, where he elaborates how the Catholic / Christian

Church is contaminated with things from the mystery religions of Babylon. He includes things like;

Mother and Child Worship
Mary Worship
Saints and Symbols
Obelisks, Temples and Towers
The Cross
The Winter Festival
The Mystery Of The Mixture

James Carol, an ex Catholic priest, in, *Constantine's Sword,* elaborates the long war against Judaism.

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4. Kamen, Spanish Inquisition, p. 17. Kamen cites approximate numbers for Valencia (250) and Barcelona (400), but no solid data about Córdoba.

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